

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2004-254

April 29, 2004

MAINE ENERGY INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Request for Access to Information on
Maine's Net Metered Customers

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; DIAMOND and REISHUS, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order, we require that Maine's transmission and distribution (T&D) utilities provide contact information for all net-metered customers to Maine Energy Investment Corporation.

II. BACKGROUND

Maine Energy Investment Corporation (MEIC) has a grant from the State Energy Program at the Public Utilities Commission to investigate the feasibility of aggregating the environmental attributes of small-scale, net-metered renewable energy installations so they can be sold in the regional electric market. This project is referred to as the Downeast Solar Coop Feasibility Study. The aggregation of environmental attributes could bring some additional revenue to the owners of net-metered renewable systems, which in turn could provide a helpful cost offset to potential owners and retailers of new small renewable systems.

In order for MEIC to explore this hypothesis, however, it must contact the owners of net-metered renewable systems to determine their level of interest in participating in such an aggregation. MEIC proposes contacting these owners, using net-metered customer lists provided by Maine's transmission and distribution utilities, by sending each such customer a letter of invitation.

III. DECISION

The State of Maine has a long-standing policy to encourage the generation of electricity from indigenous, renewable resources. 35-A M.R.S.A. §3210(1); 35-A M.R.S.A. §3302. Accordingly, we find that it is in the public interest for MEIC to be able to identify and contact all net-metered customers in Maine in an efficient manner. MEIC's successful completion of its United States Department of Energy-funded and Maine State Energy Program-authorized study relies on it being able to determine customer interest in the aggregation of renewable energy attributes. We therefore

direct each Maine transmission and distribution utility to provide MEIC with a list of its net-metered customers, including their names, addresses, and phone numbers.¹

These lists must be provided by May 7, 2004 and sent to:

Erika Morgan, President
Program Manager, "Downeast Solar Coop" Feasibility Study
Maine Energy Investment Corporation, Inc.
15 Laurel Road
Brunswick, ME 04011
207-729-9665
erikamorgan@ime.net

In the event that a T&D utility does not have net-metered customers, it should respond to MEIC with that information by May 7. Responses to this Order may be made through e-mail.

Finally, as a condition of receiving its requested information, Maine Energy Investment Corporation must use these customer lists for no other purpose than its work with the Downeast Solar Coop Feasibility Study and cannot transfer or sell the lists to any other entity.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 29th day of April, 2004.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Diamond
 Reishus

¹ We request that utilities inform the Commission in the event the disclosure of this information raises any customer-specific confidentiality issues.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within **21 days** of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.